

OPERATING ROOM TECHNIQUE. By Edythe Louise Alexander, R.N., Supervisor of the Operating Rooms of the Roosevelt Hospital, New York City. With 668 Illustrations. Second Edition. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1949. \$10.00.

The book represents an excellent description of the preparation and uses of all materiel necessary for the conduct of successful surgical procedures. It will be of inestimable value to the surgical nurse, who will find all preparations and procedures clearly presented and illustrated. There is an outline of the essential steps of every operative procedure with which any surgical nurse must be familiar to be efficient. This book will be of great value to the surgeon, who too often loses interest in the technique of sterilization and preparation of materiel and its uses in the operating room.

This comprehensive work presents in a scholarly manner problems of nursing personnel, physical operating room setups, and maintenance of operating rooms. The details of sterilization, anesthesia, the position of the patient on the operating table, draping, et cetera, are effectively covered. Each operative procedure is described in outline form with illustrations of the salient features of the operation. Both nurse and surgeon will find information applicable to their needs.

The book is highly recommended and should be available for the operating room staff of every hospital.

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DEMENTIA PRAECOX—The Past Decade's Work and Present Status: A Review and Evaluation. By Leopold Bellak, M.D., Grune & Stratton, Inc., N. Y., 1947. \$10.00.

In 1936, Nolan D. C. Lewis presented a summary and bibliography on dementia praecox entitled, "Research on Dementia Praecox (Past Attainments, Present Trends and Future Possibilities)," with the aid of a grant from the Scottish Rite Foundation. The present volume is a review of the work since then and includes the years from 1936 to 1946. About 3,200 papers have been abstracted and the material organized into various headings, much of it without critical evaluation, although the author has attempted some tentative hypotheses and formulations from the overwhelming mass of material presented.

There are chapters on definition and description; vital statistics; etiology, pathogenesis, and pathology; diagnosis and symptomatology; physiological studies; psychological studies; somatic therapy, including insulin treatment, metrazol treatment, electric shock treatment, and more rarely used somatic treatments such as nitrogen inhalation, oxygen inhalation, acetylcholine shock, fever treatment and prolonged narcosis; various kinds of endocrine treatments are mentioned, multiple transfusions, the use of a reticulocytotoxic serum, vitamins, and even refrigeration (hypothermia). Little space is devoted to prefrontal lobectomy, since so much of the work on this subject has been reported since 1946.

The author discusses the psychotherapy of dementia praecox as of directive, nondirective, or expressive (play therapies) varieties. It is of significance that in a volume comprising 456 pages, only six pages are devoted to psychotherapy, indicating how little has been written on this aspect of treatment of the schizophrenic as compared to almost 200 pages on various forms of somatic therapy. This is not to belittle, however, the therapeutic possibilities of adequate psychotherapy, but recognition that the psychiatric literature contains few reports so far.

The final chapter is devoted to the author's summary and conclusions. He emphasizes what he calls a "psychosomatic

view of schizophrenia" in that etiological factors may vary at any point on a continuum from those hypothetically completely psychogenic to those hypothetically completely organic. The differentiation he makes between schizophrenia "where there is a minimum of somatic predisposition and a maximum of sociopsychological predisposition and, again, a minimum of somatic precipitating causes (except acute toxic conditions) and a maximum of psychological precipitating causes" and dementia praecox where there is "a maximum of somatic, constitutional predisposition and a minimum of sociopsychological predisposition or precipitating causes," is really splitting hairs and not consistent with the "psychosomatic view." To make such a differentiation on the basis of prognosis is to hark back to the days of Kraepelin.

Although the internist will not find this compilation of the literature on schizophrenia very pertinent to most of the problems he meets in everyday practice, it should prove an excellent source book for psychiatrists, especially those in institutional work.

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THE ANNUAL 1949. A Resume of Papers Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Branch, American Public Health Association, May, 1948—Western Branch American Public Health Association.

The program of the annual meeting of the Western Branch of the American Public Health Association was developed to study western public health problems. The papers have been condensed and edited with skill. The contents are of especial interest to public health workers in Chapter I, a Symposium on Child Health, Chapter II, Public Health Administration and Hospital Programs, and Chapter V, Public Health Hazards. Some of these papers, and especially those of Chapter III, Public Health Aspects of the Cancer Program, and Chapter IV, Infectious Diseases, are of real interest to all physicians. As examples, a succinct summary of Colorado tick fever by Lloyd Florio, who has finally solved most of its mysteries; the estimation of Stoenner and Jenkins that in Utah only one 26th of the incidence of human brucellosis is recognized; the observation of Jenkins that over half of those in Utah who were classed as having minimus diphtheria had previously been "immunized."

One is impressed by the caliber of the papers presented. Like our state medical association meeting, the quality is that of a national meeting.

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DISEASES OF THE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT. By Douglas G. Carruthers, M.B., Ch.M. (Sydney), Honorary Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon, Sydney Hospital. Second Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1948. \$7.00.

This little book should serve a useful purpose. While presenting nothing striking, it is an up-to-date survey of the field, intended for medical students and general practitioners. It is sufficiently detailed to be useful in the care of patients, and yet does not go deeply into theory and the technical procedures which are the concern chiefly of specialists.

The author has visited the leading centers of otolaryngologic activity and has kept abreast of the international literature, so that the text does not suffer from the geographical isolation of his country (Australia). It is unfortunate that the printers turned the illustrations of the larynx on page 297 upside down. This could cause some confusion and throw doubt on the accuracy of other points, but no other significant errors were found.